REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are active in this application.

The claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. No new matter is believed to have been added to this application by these amendments.

Applicants submit that the present application is ready for examination on the merits.

Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Norman F. Oblon Attorney of Record Registration No. 24,618

James J. Kelly, Ph.D. Registration No. 41,504

Crystal Square Five - Fourth Floor 1755 Jefferson Davis Highway Arlington, VA 22202 (703) 413-3000 Fax #: (703)413-2220 JK/NFO/rac I:\atty\JK\07690420.PR.wpd

WILLIAM E. BEAUMONT REGISTRATION NUMBER 30,996